

## Message Text

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73

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 EB-07 FEA-01 ERDA-05

AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 SCCT-01 /115 W  
----- 078931

R 121320Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6188  
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USMISSION GENEVA

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GENEVA FOR SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, LE

SUBJECT: GASOLINE SHORTAGE CONTINUES ACUTE

SUMMARY. ARRIVAL OF OIL TANKER SHIP PROMISES TO ALLE-  
VIATE GASOLINE SHORTAGE SHORTLY; HOWEVER, HIGHJACKING  
OF TANKER TRUCKS FROM MEDRECO REFINERY NEAR SIDON HAS  
WORSENERED PRESENT SHORTAGE IN BEIRUT. OIL MINISTRY SAYS SECOND OIL  
TANKER SHIP EXPECTED SEPTEMBER 14 WILL ASSURE COUNTRY  
OF GASOLINE SUPPLY FOR NEXT 10 DAYS. END SUMMARY.

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1. ITALIAN OIL TANKER SHIP FRANCESCO D'ALLISSO

ARRIVED IN LEBANESE COASTAL WATERS APPROXIMATELY 2000 HOURS YESTERDAY BUT DELIVERY OF 5,000 METRIC TON LOAD DELAYED NEARLY FULL DAY BECAUSE SKIPPER MISTAKENLY STEAMED TO TRIPOLI INSTEAD OF BEIRUT DEPOT AT DORA. OIL MINISTRY HAS INSTRUCTED MOBIL TO RELEASE 1,000 TONS PER DAY (ENOUGH TO MEET ABOUT 90 PCT OF NORMAL 1,300,000 LITER DAILY CONSUMPTION) AND NOT DILUTE 98 OCTANE GAS TO CUSTOMARY 96 IN ORDER TO SPEED DELIVERY.

2. HIGHJACKERS, MANY SAID TO BE FOLLOWERS OF LEFT-WING "MARTYR" MAAROUF SA'AD (KILLED IN SIDON FIGHTING LAST APRIL) DIVERTED NEARLY ALL TANK TRUCK DELIVERIES YESTERDAY TO BEIRUT FROM MEDRECO REFINERY NEAR SIDON. DRIVERS TODAY ARE STRIKING FOR LACK OF SECURITY. INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF INFORMED DATT THAT ARMED ESCORTS WOULD BE PROVIDED BUT SITUATION STILL REMAINS UNRESOLVED BECAUSE TRUCK DRIVERS BELIEVE ARMED ESCORTS MAY PROVOKE VIOLENCE AT BLOCKADES.

3. IPC REFINERY AT TRIPOLI CONTINUES TO BE SHUT DOWN ALTHOUGH ONE OR TWO TANK TRUCKS DELIVERED GASOLINE TO FILLING STATIONS IN THE TRIPOLI AREA YESTERDAY. THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAS REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED THE USE OF ARMED CONVOYS TO PROTECT DELIVERIES FROM IPC REFINERY TO REST OF THE COUNTRY, BUT SO FAR HAS TAKEN NO DECISION.

4. SECOND TANKER IS DUE TO ARRIVE ON SEPTEMBER 14. OIL MINISTRY SAYS TWO SHIPMENTS SHOULD ASSURE COUNTRY'S GASOLINE SUPPLY FOR NEXT TEN DAYS, AFTER WHICH TIME TRIPOLI SECURITY SITUATION SHOULD ALLOW DELIVERY FROM IPC REFINERY.

5. DSPUTES CONTINUE AT GAS STATIONS; TWO PEOPLE WERE REPORTEDLY KILLED WHILE WAITING IN LINE IN MOUNTAINS WHERE SHORTAGE IS MOST SEVERE. TAXI DRIVERS IN BEIRUT STAGED DEMONSTRATION YESTERDAY TO PROTEST LACK OF GASOLINE.  
GODLEY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** GASOLINE, CRIMES, ENERGY CRISIS  
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**Draft Date:** 12 SEP 1975  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** ENRG, LE  
**To:** STATE  
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